

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0922

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PE
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR PROPOSES RETURN OF AIFLD TO PERU

REF: (A) LIMA 0266 (NOTAL), (B) 77 LIMA 10971 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR PROPOSED THE RETURN OF AIFLD TO PERU TO NEW
GOP MINISTER OF LABOR JOSE GARCIA CALDERON KOECHLIN JANUARY 30.
LABOR MINISTER UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER DE LA PUENTE. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW-UP ON THIS CONVERSA-
TION WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

1. AMBASSADOR SHLAUDEMAN CALLED ON THE GOP MINISTER OF LABOR
JOSE GARCIA CALDERON KOECHLIN JANUARY 30. THE MINISTER SOMEWHAT
RUEFULLY CONTRASTED HIS CURRENT JOB WITH THE MORE PLEASANT
POSITION HE HAD HELD IN WASHINGTON. HE NOTED THAT "UNDER
ORDERS" HE HAD BEEN DEALING WITH THE CGTP LEADERSHIP AND HE
THOUGHT HE WAS HAVING SOME SUCCESS IN GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH
KEY PERSONNEL OF THIS GROUP. GARCIA CALDERON MENTIONED THAT THE
CGTP WAS RUNNING A "TRADE UNION" SCHOOL PRODUCING LEADERS
ORIENTED TOWARD THE CGTP'S POINT OF VIEW OF UNIONISM.

2. THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE
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AIFLD'S CONTRACT WITH USAID FOR TRADE UNION EDUCATION IN
LATIN AMERICA AND THE INSTITUTE'S DESIRE TO RETURN TO
PERU. HE NOTED THAT SOME BALANCE IN THIS AREA -- NOT
LEAVING IT TO THE COMMUNISTS -- WOULD BE HEALTHY, A
POINT WITH WHICH THE MINISTER AGREED. HE ADDED THAT
AIFLD WANTED TO SEE A LABOR EDUCATION ORGANIZATION IN
PERU OPEN TO ALL DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS AND HEADED BY A

PERUVIAN ACADEMIC EXPERIENCED IN LABOR ECONOMICS. THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT A CONVENIENT VEHICLE (A PERUVIAN ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZED TO OFFER LABOR EDUCATION) ALREADY EXISTED FOR THIS TASK AND COULD BE ACTIVATED WITH AIFLD SUPPORT. (THIS ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED BY CTP IN 1967 AND IS NOW MORIBUND.) ACCORDING TO OUR UNDERSTANDING, USAID WOULD SEEK PERMISSION FROM THE GOP MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR AN AIFLD COMPTROLLER-ADVISOR TO COME TO PERU TO WORK THIS THIS PRIVATE INSTITUTION. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD CONSULT APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES (ESPECIALLY THE MINISTRY OF LABOR) AND DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO GRANT SUCH STATUS. GARCIA CALDERON RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL WITH GOP FOREIGN MINISTER, JOSE DE LA PUENTE RADBILL. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT AIFLD'S FUNDING OF THE PERUVIAN LABOR INSTITUTE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE CONCEALED. THE LABOR MINISTER UNDERSTOOD THIS POSITION.

3. THE MINISTER ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF AN INTER-AMERICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION (STATE 305616). IT SEEMED THAT GARCIA CALDERON THOUGHT THAT PLANS FOR "LABOR COLLEGES" SPONSORED BY THIS GROUP (APPARENTLY A REFERENCE TO A PROPOSAL TO THE OAS OF EX-SECRETARY OF LABOR JOHN DUNLOP IN 1975) COULD CONCEIVABLY BE AT CROSS PURPOSES WITH THE AIFLD PROJECT. THE AMBASSADOR SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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HE WAS UNAWARE OF SUCH A PROPOSAL AND DOUBTED THAT THERE WAS ANY SUBSTANCE TO IT. (THE EMBASSY WILL CLEAR UP THIS ISSUE WITH VICE MINISTER OF LABOR JULIO BARRENECHEA FEBRUARY 2.) SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, GARCIA CALDERON DID NOT RPT NOT SHOW MUCH INTEREST IN THE ORIT FORMULA WHICH WE HAD EXPECTED HIM TO RAISE (PARA 2, REF A). TO SOME EXTENT, THE AMBASSADOR HAD FORESTALLED THIS ISSUE BY EARLY COMMENTS EMPHASIZING THAT AIFLD WAS PREPARED TO ACT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY WHILE ALTERNATIVE PLANS OF LABOR EDUCATION WOULD REQUIRE YEARS TO CARRY OUT. (LABOR MINISTER'S REMARKS REGARDING OAS ACTIVITIES AND THE ILO WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.)

4. COMMENT: GARCIA CALDERON IS A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PREDECESSOR. HE SEEMS SYMPATHETIC AND APPEARS BETTER INFORMED ABOUT HIS MINISTRY AND LABOR PROBLEMS DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. HE IS PROBABLY PERSONALLY DISPOSED TO POSE NO RPT NO OBSTACLES TO AIFLD'S RETURN. NONETHELESS, HIS COMMITMENT SO FAR TO THE AIFLD PROPOSAL ONLY EXTENDS TO DISCUSSING IT WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS THERE AND ELSEWHERE. AT GARCIA

CALDERON'S SUGGESTION, LABOR ATTACHE IS FOLLOWING UP ON PROPOSAL WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR VICE MINISTER JULIO BARRENECHEA. WITH THE AGREEMENT OF CTP SECRETARY GENERAL JULIO CRUZADO, EMBASSY WILL EMPHASIZE THE NON-EXCLUSIVE NATURE OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND THE FACT THAT THE GOP NEED ONLY MAINTAIN A BENEVOLENT NEUTRALITY TOWARD ITS EXISTENCE. EMBASSY WILL HAVE MORE INFORMATION AND A BETTER IDEA AS TO WHEN A CONCRETE DECISION CAN BE EXPECTED BEFORE AIFLD REP FRIEDMAN'S ARRIVAL.
SHLAUDEMAM

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